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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shinichi KURODA et al. Conf.:
Appl. No.: 09/545,172 Group: 2613
Filed: April 6, 2000 Examiner: WONG, A.
For: IMAGE ENCODING DEVICE AND IMAGE
DECODING DEVICE

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

May 7, 2001

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 6, 2001, the following election of species and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the present application contains claims directed to twelve (12) patentably distinct species. In reply to the Examiner's requirement that Applicants elect a single species for prosecution on the merits in this case, Applicants hereby elect Species 3, upon which claims 6 and 7 read. Applicants also note that claim 6 is generic to non-elected Species 4-6, upon which claims 8-11 read. Therefore, upon allowance of claim 6, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 8-11.